



U.S. Immigration  
and Customs  
Enforcement

# News Release

August 16, 2005

## **ICE ARRESTS 2 DRUG SWALLOWERS AT SAN JUAN'S SEAPORT**

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico— U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) special agents acting on U.S. Customs and Border Protection information (CBP) arrested two individuals here Sunday who attempted to smuggle 5.6 kilograms of heroin through San Juan's seaport.

Juan Sanchez-Gonzalez and Maureen Erika Tingey, both U.S. citizens, were identified as narcotics body carriers by CBP inspectors conducting routine inspections.

Also arrested and implicated in the smuggling venture was Jose Torres Maldonado, a native of Puerto Rico and U.S. citizen. Torres-Maldonado was arrested at his residence in Isla Verde in the municipality of Carolina, Puerto Rico.

"We will simply not tolerate the infiltration of contraband through our ports of entry and will bring those who attempt to do it to justice," said Lydia St. John, acting special agent-in-charge of ICE investigations in Puerto Rico. "We have the necessary state-of-the-art technology and our inspectors and agents are well trained to detect this type of criminal activity."

Sanchez-Gonzalez, Torres Maldonado and Tingey are in the custody of the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and have been transferred to the Metropolitan Detention Center in Guaynabo.

The defendants are presumed innocent and are entitled to a fair trial and the government has the burden of proving guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

# ICE #

*U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.*